LETTER

FROM THE

COMMISSION

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

Church of Scotland

TO THE

Honourable Council and Inhabitants of the *Scots* Colony of *Caledonia* in *America*.

Dated at *Glasgow*, *July* 21, 1699.

GLASGOW,
Printed by *Robert Sanders*, One of His *Majesties* Printers. 1699.

Much Honoured, and dearly beloved in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Grace, Mercy and Peace be multiplied unto you.

THo' in the wise and powerful providence of GOD, who *hath determined the times before appointed, and the Bounds of* every man's *Habitation*, you are now separated from us by a vast Ocean; yet you are not disjoined from our Hearts; nor shall these Waters ever quench, nor Time, nor Distance wear out our Love to you: *We cease not to make mention of you in our Prayers* to God for your Preservation, and for the Prosperity of your Souls; nor to offer Him our humblest Adorations, and thankful Praises, for the wonders of His Kindness, and Mercy to you (whereof we have received most refreshing Accounts,) and to us in you, whom we justly consider as a worthy part of our selves, both as we are a Civil and a Religious Body; and pray we may have reason always so to do. Acts 17. 26. Eph. 1. 16.

We acknowledge the special merciful hand of our gracious good God, hitherto most signally and visibly appearing in the first Proposal, in the Management, and in the Conduct of this Great, and Generous Undertaking, in which you are now so far, and happily engaged; That in a poor Nation, altogether unacquainted with the carrying on of such great Designes, so many Persons of all Ranks and Qualities should Unite together in such a Contrivance: That they got the opportunity of having a Prince, and Estates of Parliament ready to give Life by Law to the same: That they who were generally Strangers to Trade, should have been induced to venture so considerable a Stock, to the surprizing of those Abroad, and themselves at Home; when they could not but lay their Account with many Difficulties, and much Opposition: That these *noble Patriots* should continue so firm, and willing to contribute their several Proportions of Means, and endeavours to set it so fairly on Foot, notwithstanding of several unforeseen Disappointments, and Oppositions; That these Disappointments

pointments and Oppoſitions, which ſeemed to look towards it with no promiſing aſpect, have fallen out rather unto its furtherance: That a Land known to all the World to be a fit Seat for ſuch an Undertaking, ſhould have lyen hitherto neglected by our more potent Neighbours: That you the firſt *noble Adventurers* have been led out of your Native Country under Divine Direction to this Land, which the Lord had
Ezek. 20. 6. *eſpied* and reſerved for you, and to which he hath born you, as *on*
Exod. 19. 4. *Eagles wings*, through the Dangers of the great Deep, and as it were aloft over amazing Difficulties, and hath piloted you ſafely in to that Void, but commodious Dwelling, whilſt you mean while, like *Abra-*
Heb. 11. 8. *ham*, (in a manner) *knew not whither you went:* That He hath kept you, in ſo long, doubtful, and hazardous a Voyage: That ſo few, comparatively, have died by the way, or ſince your Arrival; All *this is the*
Pſal. 118. 23. *doing of the Lord*, and his marvelous doing, and calls for the humbleſt, and heartieſt Praiſes, and moſt devoted Services from you, and from us.

We have in part heard of the *Providences* that have gone over you, ſince your Landing, and have rejoiced to hear of the good hand of our Gracious God continued upon you for Good, in your acceptableneſs to the *Natives*: That He *whoſe the Earth is and the fulneſs thereof,*
Pſal. 24. 1.
Deut. 32. 8.
Pſal. 80. 9. even *the moſt High*, who *divided to the Nations their Inheritance, and ſeparated the Sons of* Adam, hath made *room* for you with the free conſent, and good liking of theſe *Natives*, the Natural Lords of the Land; and in the *Preſervations* you have been under, and the Succeſſes you have obtain'd, whilſt envious Neighbours, who covet more than
Iſa. 5. 8. they are able to poſſeſs, *joining Land to Land, that they may be placed alone in the midſt of the Earth*, are ſeeking to moleſt you, and turn your
Gen. 26. 20. 21. *Poſſeſſions* into *Eſek* and *Sitnah*: That God hath hitherto maintain'd your *Rehoboth*, and, we truſt, ſhall maintain it, and make you fruitful in the Land.

Amidſt the refreſhful Relations we had of your happy Succeſſes, it was moſt afflicting to us to hear of the Death of our dear Brethren Mr. *James* and Mr. *Scot* your two Miniſters, whom we ſent alongſt with you, for the Comfort and Edification of your Souls; and we find you have been ſenſibly affected with the ſame: He is the Soveraign Lord who was pleaſed to mingle that bitter Water among your Wine, that, amidſt the many ſignal Smiles of *Providence* beſtow'd on you, you met with this frowning Cloud, to allay both your, and our Joy;
Dan. 4. 35. But who may ſay to the Almighty, *What doſt Thou?* Let us adore the only wiſe God in this Diſpenſation, as calling you to an higher valuing of Goſpel-Ordinances, and, by the want of them, to more enlarged

deſires

deſires after them, and a more diligent Improvement of them when reſtored; and as calling us to a more vigorous and tender concern in providing for your Souls Food and ſpiritual Benefit.

To have and improve the glorious Goſpel in its Miniſtry and Ordinances, is the happineſs of a Place and People: Where theſe are, *Glory dwells* in that Land, and without them, there is no Glory: Let Mens Dwellings upon Earth be Fertile or Barren, Wealthy or Poor, Peaceful or Perilous; this compenſats the Inconveniences of the one, and is the richeſt Advantage of the other: How ſweet is the Life, and ſecure is the Protection of theſe who dwel *under the Wings of the God of Iſrael*, and the warm Influences of his Ordinances in their Life and Power! Pſal 85. 9. 1Sam.4.21.22. Ruth 2. 12.

The Honourable Court of Directors, by their Applications to the laſt General Aſſembly, and to us, have been careful to repreſent your Deſires to have moe Miniſters ſent you, and very forward in contributing what was proper for them, to accompliſh the ſame: And we hope we may ſay, it hath been the good Hand of God in anſwering their Endeavours, and ours, that we herewith ſend you Four of our Brethren, Miniſters of the Goſpel of Chriſt, and our Fellow-Workers unto the Kingdom of God; Men who have a great Zeal for you, and have very cheerfully hazarded their Lives, in addicting themſelves unto this Miniſtry, whom we beſeech you to receive, and ſubmit your ſelves unto in the Lord: Tho' we might uſe much boldneſs in Chriſt with you, as our Spiritual Children, in Recommending them as our Brethren; yet it is under an higher and more auguſt Character they come unto you, and under which you are to receive them, as the Servants of the Living God, as the Embaſſadours of Chriſt, as Men ready to ſpend and be ſpent in the Service of your Faith and Joy, and in communicating this Goſpel to the *Gentiles* in the Regions beyond you: Do you therefore *Eſteem them very highly in Love for their Works ſake*, entertain their Meſſage, encourage their Endeavours, and ſtrengthen their Hands: We truſt they ſhall, through Grace, make full Proof of their Miniſtry among you; Do you alſo *fulfill your Obedience to them* in the Lord, as Men that *Watch for your Souls, and muſt give an Account*; That you may be their *Hope and Joy*, their *Glory* and *Crown of Rejoycing, in the Preſence of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, at his Coming*; and they may Labour amongſt you, and give up their Account of you in that Day *with Joy and not with Grief*; *for that is unprofitable for you*. 1 Theſſ. 5.12. 13. 2 Cor. 10. 6. Heb. 13. 17. 1 Theſſ. 2. 19.

We have fully Inſtructed them to ſet up a Chriſtian Diſcipline, and Order in your Church; *for God is not the Author of Confuſion but of* 1 Cor. 14 33.

Order and Peace in all the Churches of the Saints; and in this they will ſtand in need of ſome of you to be joined with themſelves, as Elders and Office-Bearers in the Church, Overſeers of the Manners of the People, and Aſſiſtants in the Exerciſe of Diſcipline, and Government: And we hope ſuch of you as ſhall be orderly Called hereunto, will reckon it your Duty to embrace the ſame, and diſcharge that Office with Chriſtian Meekneſs, Prudence, and Faithfulneſs: And we are confident of the *Zeal* and Love of all of you in every thing wherein they may need your Aſſiſtance: Nor will the Church of *Scotland* be wanting in what may be requiſit from time to time, towards the maintaining the Goſpel among you, and diffuſing its Glorious Light and Influence upon the Neighbouring *Gentiles*; that they to whom Chriſt
Rom. 15. 21. was not *heretofore ſpoken of, may ſee; and they that have not heard may conſider and underſtand.*

And now *Honoured Friends* and *Dear Country-men*, whilſt you are far
2 Cor. 11. 2. from us, our Bowels earn towards you, and we are *Jealous over you with a godly Jealouſie*, leſt any among you forget the Obligations of their Birth, Sacramental Entrance into, and Education in a Chriſtian Church, their Vows in the day of their Diſtreſſes or Fears, the marvelous loving Kindneſs of the Lord in your *Preſervation* hitherto, and Eſtabliſhment; and what Duty and Service theſe wonderful Providences you have met with and ſtill are under do require; leſt there ſhould be any *Achan* in your Camp to trouble your Iſrael, and kindle the Diſpleaſure of your God, provoking Him to turn againſt you to do you Evil, after he hath done you Good. And we hope you will conſider what we ſay as proceeding from the warmeſt Affections of your tender loving Mother *the Church of* Scotland.

Remember then in the firſt Place, That God is the Soveraign Lord, and abſolute Proprietor of all the Earth; it's He who hath appointed a Place for you, and carried you ſafely to it. He it is, even the Lord of Hoſts, who fights your Battles againſt thoſe who would diſturb your Settlement: From Him yon derive your Original Right and your Security; acknowledge Him then as your Great *Land-Lord* with Sincere and Upright Souls: All you enjoy is His, all you expect is from Him; Pay therefore unto Him due Homage for all: Serve Him who is your God, and the God of your Fathers, and the God of this Nation to which you belong; and cleave to Him with upright Hearts;
2 Chron. 15. 2. *For the Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye ſeek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forſake Him, He will forſake you.*

You are not left like the blind *Heathen* to grope after Him, as in
Acts 17. 27. the Dark; He hath been, and Is nigh unto you, and your Eyes have

been

been opened (even all of you, at leaſt, by Chriſtian Education) to behold him, not only in his wondrous Works, which all Men behold; but in the moſt wonderful of all his Works, in his Glorious Goſpel: By this you have been taught that *God is a Spirit*, and you muſt *Worſhip him in Spirit and in Truth: You ſhall not do ſo unto the Lord your God*, as the *Heathen* do unto their Gods, who ſtupidly, and blockiſhly Worſhip their blockiſh Idols; but you muſt remember *the Manner of the God of the Land* from whence you came, and ſerve him after his own Manner revealed in his Goſpel. There you have been inſtructed that in all Places his Eye is upon you, and he obſerves your Hearts and Ways in *Caledonia* no leſs than In *Scotland*: *The Wings of the Morning, and the uttermoſt Parts of the Sea* hide not from him: All are his Territories and under his Dominion: 'Tis there you Learn that in *every Nation* and in every Place, *he that feareth God, and worketh Righteouſneſs*, that *lifteth up holy Hands without Wrath, or Doubting*, is accepted of him; but that the Workers of Iniquity can no where eſcape his Notice, nor get out of the Reach of his Juſtice, but by Flying in to Chriſt, and taking Refuge in that bleſſed Hope which the Goſpel ſets before them.

John 4. 24. Deut. 12. 4, 31. 2 Kings 17. 26. 27. Pſal. 139. 9. Acts. 10. 35. 1 Tim. 2. 8.

We beſeech you to Ponder theſe Things with all due Seriouſneſs; Let them be ever preſent to your Minds, with a Practical Influence, and Operation upon your Spirits, and your whole Deportment; that you Reverence, and Serve, Truſt and Adore, Love and Obey that God whoſe you are, and whoſe are all your Wayes: To him you owe your preſent Settlement, and your future Hopes; See and enjoy his Bounty and Kindneſs in all: Labour to know and diſcern, upon Goſpel-Evidence, that he beſtoweth outward Bleſſings upon you from his Love in Chriſt: This will make *your Caledonia* to be a Land of Promiſe, and a Pledge of that better Inheritance reſerved in Heaven for you, where all the Gold and Riches of the Earth, the Things moſt Valued by Men, heap'd together, do make but a faint Metaphor for the Pavement of that moſt Glorious City: And after all the Acquiſitions of this World, what is a Man Profited if he loſe his own Soul?

Let ſuch as are yet Strangers to Chriſt, repent of all their Sins committed in *Scotland*, or ſince their Arrival in their New Dwellings, and conſider with Aſtoniſhment, with Gratitude, with relenting Sorrow and Shame, how many hundreds of Leagues they have been carried ſafe, through the Vaſt Abyſs, when there was but the thickneſs of a Plank between them and Death, and conſequently between them and Hell; How near they have bordered upon the confines of Eternity;

and how dreadful it will be at laſt, if the Waves and Billows of Divine Wrath ſhall go over their Souls for ever. This is the Doom that every Sinner muſt undergo by himſelf, if it be not taken off by his Surety; and ſuch as Fly not to the Goſpel-Sanctuary, and Refuge, their Sin will ſurely find them out, wherever they go.

We do moſt earneſtly Intreat and Obteſt you the Honourable and Worthy Perſons in whoſe Hands the Government is Lodged, that you not only be ſhining Paterns your Selves, in all Sobriety, Holineſs and Vertue; But that, with the outmoſt Diligence, and vigilant Care, you procure, that the Deportment and Behaviour of all under your Authority and Influence, be ſuch as becometh the Goſpel; by Commanding every one to do their Duty, by enacting ſtrick and wholeſom Laws, and Executing thoſe Laws impartially, and ſpeedily; That no Wickedneſs be Countenanced, or in the leaſt connived at; For why ſhould you bring Wrath upon your ſelves, and the Land, and provoke the holy God to blaſt all your Undertakings? And why ſhould you Forfeit his Bleſſing and Favour promiſed to Righteous Rulers, and make your Selves Partakers of other Mens Sins? For whatever is committed thro' your Forbearance, and Remiſneſs in Government, is juſtly Chargable on you: Every Man is Guilty of that Sin which he Reproves not, which he does not Teſtifie againſt, which he can, but neglects to hinder in another; But moſt of all, ſuch as are Rulers of others, and muſt give an Account of them to God, as well as of themſelves. *Thou ſhalt not hate thy Brother in thy Heart, thou ſhalt in any ways rebuke thy Neighbour, and not ſuffer Sin upon him:* And in the Margin it reads, *That thou bear not Sin for him:* This is a Law given unto all; But the peculiar End of Magiſtracy is, to be a Terror unto Evil-doers, and for the Praiſe of them that do Well; To ſet their Eyes of Favour upon the Faithful of the Land; and to cut off all Wicked-doers from the City of the Lord.

Lev. 19. 17.

There is yet a ſpecial Obligation upon you, in the Planting and Erecting of a New Colony, to take Care that Religion and Vertue be planted and thrive in it. Owe you not this return to God, who hath brought you thither, and who preſerves and proſpers you? Owe you it not to your Selves, leaſt you Forfeit his merciful Kindneſs, and turn it to bitter Diſpleaſure? Owe you it not to the Nation you are come from; to the Goſpel you have Received, and Profeſt, and to the People you are come among; that they receive not Scandal, and ground of Offence againſt Chriſtianity, from the ungodly Lives of Profeſſed Chriſtians? Have you not Advantages, beyond the Government of your Native Land, or any other of a long continuance, where

where there are ſo many Corruptions, and rooted Habits of Vice, among the People to be eradicated? Your Common-Wealth is in its Infancy; you have in your Hand the firſt Forming of it; your People yet but few, in Compariſon, and their Hearts, we truſt, yet tender, under the ſenſe of Divine Goodneſs, as well as the Apprehenſion of yet impendent Dangers; and ſo more eaſily formed into Obedience and Vertue. Are ye not all perſwaded, that, as *Righteouſneſs exalteth a Nation, and Sin is the Reproach of any People*; So it muſt be verified in a very ſpecial and eminent Manner upon you, That there is a Juſt and Righteous God, who will call every one to a Reckoning, both for their Perſonal and for their Stational Actions? Are you not Convinced that Sobriety, Temperance, Diligence, and all other Moral and Chriſtian Vertues, are truly your Temporal, as well as your Eternal Intereſt; that your Worldly Affairs cannot thrive without theſe; That theſe are true reaſon of State, by their propitious Influence on Society; and true point of Honour, preventing the Baſeneſs and Infamies of Vice, and rendring the Righteous Man more Excellent than his Neighbour, ſolidy Brave, Generous, and Great? Have you not before your Eyes fatal Examples of the ſad Effects of Immorality, and Debauchedneſs in other *Colonies*, ſome of which, inſtead of Propagating the Goſpel, are become Nurſeries of Scandal to *Infidels*; and have drawn down many formidable Judgements on themſelves? Hath not the Diſſolution of Manners weak'ned, enervated and broken ſome of your Neighbours, and rendred them an eaſie Prey to their Enemies, and the Objects of Divine Vengeance, for their Corruptions, and their Cruelties. Prov. 14. 34.

We beſeech you, for the Lord's Sake, for your own Souls Sake, and for the Sake of your Country, and of your Poſterity, for all that is, and ought to be Sacred, and Dear to Chriſtians, or to Men, that you withſtand, and prevent the corrupting of *your Infant Colony*, that you Oppoſe and Stop the firſt Appearances or Occaſions of Vice amongſt your People; and keep them cloſe to the ſtrict Rules of Chriſtian Morality, and a Goſpel adorning Converſation.

Can any think but the Divine Majeſty will reſent, and Avenge the Helliſh, Unnatural, and Uncreaturly Prophanation of his Dreadful and Holy Name, (a Sin void of Tentation, and full of Horrour) or that ever the *Heathen* will be induced to Adore that God, whom his own Worſhippers Trample upon, and Contemn by prophane Swearing? And, whereas Oaths, amongſt all Nations, are, and ought to be eſteem'd moſt Sacred, and binding; What Veneration or Credit will they give to the Oaths of thoſe, who Proſtitute them, tho' it were

but in trivial Occurrences of Law, (a ſad abuſe of Judicatories in many Countries, which we wiſh you to avoid) much leſs, when they are made the miſerable Blemiſhes and Stains of common Diſcourſe.

Will not Drunkenneſs weaken and brutify your People, and ſpoil all honeſt Commerce, and manly Converſation, and prove an inlet to all Miſchief? A temperat People are Bold and Adventuring, Wiſe and Couragious, and attended with many temporal Bleſſings of an outward, proſperous and flouriſhing Condition: while Drunkenneſs beſots, diſpirits, befools, and wafts a Nation. Let this Vice be curbed among you in its firſt beginning: And that vile and wretched Cuſtom deteſted that hath unhappily obtained here, of doing all Buſineſs over a tippling Bottle.

1 Cor. 6. 19. Let all Uncleanneſs be abhorred: Pollute not *the Temples of the Holy Ghoſt*, which your Bodies are, Conſecrated to him in Chriſtian Bap-
1 Theſſ. 4. 4. tiſm; but let every one *poſſeſs his Veſſel in Sanctification and Honour*; leſt the Place of your Settlement be defiled, and the Land Spue you out, as *Canaan* did its Inhabitants. And let Intereſt oblige you to extraordinary Caution, and Watchfulneſs over the People, with reſpect to the *Natives*, in this Matter; leſt their Reſentment prove a Mean of your Ruine; and, if they ſhould be provoked to avenge Indignities done them, and Injuries of this kind, your fall could not but prove Diſgraceful and Unpitied.

Let your Laws ſtrike ſeverely againſt Idleneſs, and want of Imployment, the Parent of much Miſchief and Beggary. Idle People are not only Uſeleſs, but Burdenſom in a Common-wealth, Sowers of Sedition, Diſcontented, and ſeldom better exerciſed, than to find out baſe and diſhoneſt Ways, whereby they may be maintain'd, in pampering of ſhameful Luſts. Let Induſtry be reputed Honourable, and Diligence in Imployment a Character of Vertue, worthy of the higheſt Reſpect: Let not the fooliſh Notion ever get Footing with you, which hath been one great Cauſe of the Poverty of our Nation at Home, and our Reproach among the Rich, and Trading Nations Abroad, That it is below a Gentleman to follow Trade and Imployment.

Let not only all Falſhood in Words and Actions be ſeverely puniſhed, as what is inconſiſtent with Humane Society, and Enervats and Deſtroys Trade; (Faith, and uprightneſs in Dealing, being the Life
Prov. 10. 9. and Soul of Commerce, and the beſt Foundation of Succeſs, *for he that walketh uprightly walketh ſurely*) But likewiſe Diſcourage and Diſgrace Self-ſeeking, and Narrowneſs, to the prejudice of the Publick: Let not every one ſeek his own Things, to the Detriment of his Neighbour, but every one the Good of others, and common Benefit; for

in

in the Intereſt of the Publick, and Proſperity of the Common-wealth, that of each particular Perſon conſiſts, and is beſt ſecured. Eſpecially this is to be look'd to, in the beginning of a Settlement, and Infancy of a *Government*; where *Publick* Spiritedneſs and Self-denial, as they are Goſpel-precepts, ſo, will be found beſt Principles of Policy; whereas Self-ſeeking hath ever been the Bane and Ruine of many promiſing Undertakings.

We cannot forget to Recommend to you Brotherly-Love and Concord, and that you Live in Peace and Unity among your Selves; a Thing no leſs Profitable to you, than Pleaſant to the God of Peace, and ſuitable to the Chriſtian Name: This is our Lord's New Commandment left by Him in Legacy to all his Followers, that they *Love one another*: By this ev'n the *Heathen*-Nations ſhall know that you are the Diſciples of the Prince of Peace. We need not tell you what is the Common-remark on theſe of our Nation, that, however Haſty, Impatient, and Warm they may be in their Debates, while at Home; yet they are Noted as Exemplary to others, in an affectionat Concern in, Sympathy with, and cloſe Adherence to one another, when Abroad. We heartily Wiſh this may be Verified of you, now when you are far removed from your Native Land, and plac'd amidſt envious Neighbours, who are waiting for your Halting, and would make it their Work to Improve, to your Hurt, any Difference that might ariſe among you. Joh. 13. 34, 35.

Let righteous Judgement be Executed betwixt Man and Man; for the Judgement is the Lords. Let it be done Impartially, without vexatious Quibbles or dilatory Forms, and Diſpenſed either *Gratis*, or upon a publick Salary; ſo as no Magiſtrat may Gain by Fynes of his own Impoſing; a Practice moſt hurtful in your Native Land; whereby the Covetous are Tempted to Squeeze and Oppreſs, and thoſe of a more honeſt and free Diſpoſition, to become over Slack, leſt they ſhould appear gripping for their own Intereſt. And in general, whatever *Scripture* or *ſolid Reaſon* hath Diſcovered to you to be Wrong, or of ill Conſequence, in the Cuſtoms you have ſeen at Home or elſe where, and in the Errors of other Plantations, let theſe Things be carefully Avoided in your New Government.

The Eyes of God, of Angels and of Men are upon you; The World begins to take Notice of you, as a moſt hopeful *Colony*, to the Envy of your Enemies, and the Joy of your own Country and Friends. Remember, as you are a People of great Expectation, and of great Advantages; So your Honour and Renown, your Temporal, as well as your Spiritual and Eternal Gain ſhall be Great, if you improve your

Talent, and Manage the Price put in your Hands, Wisely and Well; but if otherwise, your Reckoning must be Sore and Heavy, and your End Inglorious.

We again Repeat our most earnest Intreaties unto you, our Dear and Honoured Friends, that you be very Exact, Vigilant, and Conscientious in Modeling your New *Colony* to all Vertue, and Godliness; Especially in the first Beginning; which is of vast Importance in all great Undertakings; And a due Care of which will render all after Proceedings Easie, Pleasant, and Succesful; That you bend your outmost Endeavours, both by Example and Law, to make Righteousness, Sobriety, and Godliness appear in the Eyes of others, as they are in themselves, Amiable and Honourable; And all Vice and Impiety, Detestable and Infamous; So as a vitious Person may look like a Monster, and Object of Horrour amongst you: Thus, Religion and Vertue will Incorporat into your very Customs and Constitutions, and your Laws and Persons will be Venerable, without the grievous Necessity of being Severe; and God will Bless you, and Delight to Dwell among you; and your Land *shall be called Hephzi-bah*, and the Name of your Place *Jehovah-shammah, the Lord is there*. But if any will do Wickedly, if Men will be Foolish and Froward, your Duty to God, and Mercy to the Community, calls for Speedy and Exemplary Justice, that you may put the Evil away from among you, and that Others may Hear and Fear.

Isa. 62. 4. Ezek. 48.

As we Recommend unto you a Just and Christian Regard to all Gospel-Ordinances; So in Particular, a Religious Observance and Sanctification of the Lord's Day, the Neglect of which will ly heavy on Governours, the Command being peculiarly giv'n to them, as Persons that must Answer for their Children and Servants, and for the Stranger that is within their Gates, as well as for Themselves: If the Sabbath of the Lord be Prophan'd, He will cause your Land *to Enjoy its Sabbaths*, by Desolation. But if you Sanctifie the Holy Day of Rest unto the Lord, he will Procure and Maintain Rest for you in your Land.

Lev. 26. 43.

And as we are hopeful of your Just and Faithful Dealings with all Men, whom you may have Occasion to Negotiat, and Trade with; So we Recommend, not only Equity and Justice, but, obliging Kindness towards the *Natives*; That your People may not only have their Conversation Honest among the *Gentiles*, but winning and engaging, by Beneficence; That they, Beholding and Enjoying the Benefit of your Good-Works, may Glorifie God in the Day of your Visitation. If you Partake of their Temporal Things, are you not bound to Minister unto Them of your Spiritual Things? Verily, their Debtors you

are

are; And not only is it the Interest of your Trade, and your Safety, to keep good Measures with them; but 'tis your positive Duty, for which the Lord seems in a peculiar Manner to have Designed *your Plantation*, as its most glorious End; To Propagat the Light of his Gospel amongst them, and that Heavenly Wisdom which is more Precious than all Riches, and whose Merchandise is better than the Gold of *Ophir* or *Darien*: 'Tis by their Consent that God Confirms your Right, therefore Cherish them, as your Brethren, of the same Blood, and Kindred in *Adam*; And Endeavour that you may have them also your Brethren in Christ; not only, let no Stumbling-block, or Occasion of Offence, be laid before them, but all due Encouragement giv'n them, to *E*mbrace the *E*verlasting Gospel. Let them see what Veneration, and Regard you Pay to your Ministers, as the Servants of the most High God, who must Labour amongst them; and to the Ordinances of Jesus Christ, as the Common Means of your and their Salvation.

It will be needful you Study their Genius Well: For some of these Nations are Naturally more Sincere, and Simple; Others more Subtile, and Treacherous; But, Generally, all of them, *E*specially in the Beginning, Suspicious and Jealous, Credulous, and Apt to take Ill Impressions, and not *E*asie to Quit them; Also most Revengful, and Cruel, where they can be Masters, upon the Apprehension of the least Injury done them, to which they have got too many Irritations, by other *Europeans*, who have come among them. Therefore, there's need, you be, in the midst of them, Wise as Serpents, and Harmless as Doves; You are always to be very Watchful, and upon your Guard, that you may prevent Surprizals, and be able to Defend your Selves, if they should take up any *P*rejudice, and Irritation, Groundlesly, against you: Be very Concerned to *S*ee that none of Yours Injure, or Disoblige Them in the least, without Due and Speedy Punishment, and that more severely Inflicted, than for these Injuries done by any of you against another of your Selves. And, beside the Punishment you may find Just, and Necessar to Inflict, be sure any Dammage they Sustain be Repay'd, tho' it should be done by the Publick, when the Offending-Party is not able. By any Means, by continual Converse, endeavour to Civilize them, and cultivat any *P*rinciples of Natural Understanding, and Reason, they have, which will indeed require great Prudence, and Dexterity in the Management: And when they see Piety, Sincerity and Equity Flourishing among You; it will be the most Effectual, and endearing Tye to Knit them to your Interest.

Be careful in doing Juſtice betwixt Maſters and Servants: Let their Service be a reaſonable Service, and Time allow'd them for their Publick and Privat Worſhipping of God, for they are your Brethren: And when their Time Expires; let them meet with ſuch Encouragement, as may always Engage them to continue, and Settle among you: whereby, from time to time, you will be Strength'ned, and Increaſed, and Others Encouraged to come unto You.

If You ſhall have Servants for Life, or *Slaves*, of other Nations; (for the *Natives* of *Darien*, we conſider as your Confederats and *Allies*) as we Wiſh you to be Tender, both of their Souls and Bodies, and to *Encourage* their Converſion to *Chriſtianity*, by all proper Means; So we do not Urge that their abſolute Liberty, and Freedom from their *Service*, ſhould, as in ſome other Places, be made the immediat Reward of their Profeſſing to Receive the Goſpel: For this hath tempted Maſters to withhold them from the Means of their Converſion, leſt they ſhould be Indammaged by the Loſe of their Service; and hath occaſion'd the Slaves to make Counterfeit Profeſſions, to gain their Liberty. But we Recommend a Gentle-Rule, a Mild Treatment, and that full Acceſs and Time be Allow'd for their Chriſtian Inſtruction, and let ſuch Rules be agreed on, as that theſe at leaſt of them, who ſhal, not only Profeſs the *Chriſtian-Religion*, but have ſuch a Goſpel-Adorning Converſation, as may Recommend them to the Conſciences of the Godly, as Chriſtians indeed, may have their full Freedom by ſuch Means, and upon ſuch Terms, as may be Safe and Advantagious, both to their Maſters and Them. Immortal Souls are of great Value, and the Bleſſings of Theſe, who are ready to Periſh, are not to be Deſpiſed.

We ſhall, in the next Place, particularly Addreſs our Selves to You, that are in Military-Charge, and have Command over the Souldiery, whether by Land or Sea: It's on you, *Honoured and Worthy Gentlemen*, that a great Share of the Burden of the Publick Safety lyes; you are, in ſome Reſpect, both the Eyes, and Hands of this Infant *Colony*: Many of you have been lately Engaged in a Juſt and Glorious War, for Retriving, and Defending the *Proteſtant-Religion*, the Liberties, and Rights of your Country, under the Conduct of a *Matchleſs Prince*. And now, when thro' the Bleſſing of the Lord of *Hoſts*, His and Your Arms have procured an Honourable *Peace* at Home; You, and others with you, have, with much Bravery, embark'd your Selves in a Great, Generous, and Juſt Undertaking, in the Remote Parts of the Earth, for Advancing the Honour and Intereſt of your Native-Country: If in this you acquit your Selves like Men, and *Chriſtians*; Your Fame will be Renown'd both Abroad and at Home. We cannot Foreſee what Oppoſition

Opposition you may meet with from the Malice of Men, who Envy the Prosperity of Others, and seek to Enhance to Themselves that Part of the World whether you are Going, which may justly Oblige you anew to the Trial of your Arms: And in that Case, you are Called to Use your Valour, and Courage, but not to Lean unto it, nor Trust in the Arm of Flesh. Seek to have *the Lord Going before you, and the God of* Isa. 52. 12. Israel *to be your Reerward.* And Remember what is giv'n in Charge to the Armies of *Israel, when the Host goeth forth against thine Enemies, then* Deut. 23. 9, 14. *keep Thee from every wicked Thing*, lest the Lord, seeing Wickedness, and Prophanity in your Camp, be provok'd to Turn away from you. How Reproachful would it Prove to the Profession of *Christianity*, if, by the lewd Practice of any among you, the *Pagan*-Nations should have Ground to Apprehend, that you Entertain that Hellish, and false Maxime of the Atheistical Debauchees of this Age, which ev'n the Refined *Heathen* Abhor, That 'tis a Point of Gallantry, and a necessary Qualification in a Souldier, to cast off all Thoughts of God, of his own Soul, of Heaven, and Hell; As if These, who are continually Conversant in the Jaws of Death, were less Concerned, than Others, to Mind their Future State; or that Wicked, and Profligat Men, could Adventure to Encounter with Death, which to Them is a King of Terrors, with that Boldness and fixed Resolution, in Lawful and Allowable War, that is to be found with the Upright Man, who can encourage Himself with the Thoughts of This, That his Latter-end will be Peace? Do not *Pagan*, as well as *Christian*, Histories, furnish sufficient Instances of the Noblest *Hero's*, and bravest Commanders, who were Themselves Patterns of Vertue, and a Terror to the Vitious, and Prophane? And, sure, the most Eminent of Saints, Recorded in the Holy Scriptures, have been most Couragious Warriours, and the Best of Souldiers. Let Us therefore earnestly Intreat, and Obtest You, who are Commanders and Officers, to go before your Souldiers, in all Manner of Holy Conversation. The Characters you bear, by the Stations you are plac'd in, the Respect you owe to the Honour, Credit, and Welfare of your Native-Country, and that New Part of it, the *Colony* you are now Going to, your own Temporal, as well as Spiritual, Interest, and the Happiness of These under your Charge, do all call aloud on you, to Use your outmost Endeavours, for Curbing, by Exemplary Punishment, and Marks of Disgrace, in any of your Souldiers, who may be Guilty of them, the Horrid Wickedness of prophane Swearing, Uncleanness, Drunkenness, Prophaning the Lord's Day, Neglect of Gospel-Ordinances, Falshood, Treachery, Oppression, and Idleness the Mother of All Wickedness, and other Enormities; the Suppressing of all

Which we have already Recommended to the *Honourable-Council* of the *Colony*: nor ſhall we need to Enforce this on you, ſo far as your Stations call for it, with any other Arguments than what We have Offered to Them, Which we Intreat you Seriouſly to Mind. And, for the Encouragement of all under your Command to Carry, as becometh Chriſtian-Souldiers, in the Way of Well-doing; Let their due Allowance be Punctually giv'n Them; Preferment, and Reward, Impartially, and Readily Beſtow'd on the beſt Deſerving of Them: That Wickedneſs being Diſgrac'd, and Baniſhed; Piety Encouraged and Flouriſhing in your Camp; you may have Confidence toward God, that the Lord will be your Protection, and will Delight to go Forth in the Midſt of You.

Tho' much of what We have Written be Addreſs'd, Principally, to the Governours and Magiſtrats of the *Plantation*, and Others bearing Office among you; Yet it doth likeways Concern every one of You, *Our Beloved Friends, and Dear Country-men*, for whom the Deſire of our Souls, and Prayer to God is, that you may be Saved, that God may Countenance, and Bleſs your Undertakings, and Crown Them with Succeſs, that His Almighty Power may be a Wall of Fire about You; But, above all, that his Gracious Preſence, in his Ordinances, may be the Glory in the midſt of you; and that your Souls may Proſper untill you be Transplanted into the better Manſions above, that Kingdom which is beyond the Injuries of envious Enemies, a Kingdom that cannot be Shaken, and whence you ſhall go forth no more.

We have found it Neceſſary, from a ſenſe of our Duty before God, and our tender Regard, both to your Souls, and your outward Wellfare, to lay before your Governours the indiſpenſible Obligations of their Station, as Chriſtian-Magiſtrats, to *Set up*, and Maintain a Holy, Righteous-Government over you, and to Suppreſs, and Puniſh all Vice, with the Greateſt, and moſt Impartial Severity. As this is abſolutly Requiſit to the very Civil Subſiſtance of your *Colony*, ſo we hope it will not be grievous to any of you, and that there is not one Soul ſo Degenerous, and Diſſolute in your Society, as, but to Wiſh for a Connivance to any Immoral or Prophane Practice: And, if there be, ſuch a Perſon is a Burden and Plague to the Reſt, that deſerves to be cut off, leſt the Body be Infected, and the heavy Judgements of God be pull'd down on the Community. We are, therefore, Confident that you will Obey, not only for Fear, but, for Conſcience Sake, and for your own Intereſt; That you will Pay all Submiſſion and dutiful Deference to your *Rulers*; That you will, with Patience, and Contentment, bear the Toils and Fatigues of your firſt Settlement, not Murmuring,

muring, for what Uneaſineſs may as yet be in your Circumſtances; but Waiting upon the Land, in an Humble, and diligent Application to your preſent Work, till He in his infinit Mercy, give you a confirmed *Reſt* in the Land: For, tho' you do not find ſuch Fruits attending your preſent Labours, as may Anſwer all the Expectations you had; Yet Patience, Diligence, and Induſtry will overcome your firſt Difficulties; And, thro' the Bleſſing of God, you ſhall find the Promiſe made out unto you, That *the Hand of the Diligent maketh Rich.*

And we Obteſt you, by the Mercies of God, in Jeſus Chriſt our *Saviour*, that in your ſeveral *Stations*, you Walk Worthy of the Lord, unto all Well-pleaſing; That you give no Offence to the *Gentiles*, but be exceeding Wary and Tender of whatever may *Scar* them, from *Chriſtianity*, or doing any thing Unbecoming the Church, and Members of Chriſt; *That you be Blameleſs and Harmleſs, the Sons of God, without Rebuke*, ſhining as Lights in the World; That you be Diligent and Faithful, Sober and Loving, among your Selves; and Obſequious to them that are Over you, whether in Matters *Religious* or Civil; And that you be every one Exemplary, Encouraging, and Edifying to one another, in Godlineſs, and in whatever tends to Common-good.

Finally Brethren, whatſoever things are True, whatſoever things are Honeſt, whatſoever things are Juſt, whatſoever things are Pure, whatſoever things are Lovely, whatſoever things are of good Report, if there be any Vertue, and if there be any Praiſe, think on theſe Things.

And, Particularly, we *Recommend* unto you, Frequency and Fervency in *Prayer*, both a-part, and in Chriſtian-Societies, or Fellowſhips together. *'Tis God moſt High, who Performeth all Things for You*, on Whom you muſt Depend, for all your Mercies, and all your Hopes: And therefore, *from the uttermoſt Ends of the Earth, lift up your Cry unto Him*, who is the Hearer of *Prayer*: and you ſhall not ſeek his Face in Vain.

That we be not further Tedious to you, hoping our Dear Brethren the Miniſters, we have ſent to Labour among you, in the Work of the Lord, ſhall be Furniſhed by Their Great Maſter, ſo as to afford you from his Holy Word, ſuch Inſtructions and Directions, from time to time, as your Caſe ſhal require, to whom we intreat you to Hearken; that you may be mutually encouraging to one another in the Lord your God: We only *Repeat* theſe Memorable Words, which we Wiſh may be indelibly Engraven on your Hearts: *The Lord is with you, while you are with him; and if you ſeek him, he will be found of you: but if you forſake him, he will forſake you*; And all your forward Expectations, and blooming Hopes ſhall be Blaſted and Wither, and your *Colony* laid 2 Chron. 15. 2.

 Deſolate,

Deſolate, your Names, inſtead of Honour and Renown, ſhal be Branded with Infamy, Hiſſing and Scorn; and your Bleſſings turn'd unto Curſes;
Deut. 29. 21, and the Lord ſhall Pluck you up, and not Plant you, *and ſhall ſeparate you unto Evil*, after he had ſaid, he would do you Good.

But, *Beloved Brethren*, we are perſwaded better things of you, and things that accompany Salvation, tho', for your *W*arning, we thus Write; and that the Lord will preſerve you ſtedfaſt in Holineſs, and Faith; and will Plant you in that Place deſtinated for you, and make you a Name of Joy, and Renown among the Nations.

Now, to Conclude, we Recommend theſe few Words of Exhortation, proceeding from a moſt Tender, and affectionat Concern, for your Good, to your moſt ſerious Conſideration, and to the Bleſſing of God. To him we Commend all of you, and to the Word of his Grace, which is able to Build you up, and to give you an Inh ritance among them that are Sanctified, thro' Faith that is in Chriſt; *To whom be Glory, For Ever and Ever.* Amen.

F I N I S.